

## Routes to tour in Germany

# The Harz and Heath Route



German roads will get you there — to areas at times so attractive that one route leads to the next, from the Harz mountains to the Lüneburg Heath, say. Maybe you should take a look at both. The Harz, northernmost part of the Mittelgebirge range, is holiday country all the year round. In summer for hikers, in winter for skiers in their tens of thousands. Tour from the hill resorts of Osterode, Clausthal-Zellerfeld or Bad Harzburg or from the 1,000-

year-old town of Goslar. The Heath extends from Celle, with its town centre of half-timbered houses unscathed by the war and the oldest theatre in Germany, to Lüneburg, also 1,000 years old. It boasts wide expanses of flat countryside, purple heather and herds of local curly-horned sheep.

Visit Germany and let the Harz and Heath Route be your guide.



1 Brunswick  
2 An old Lüneburg Heath farmhouse  
3 The Harz  
4 Göttingen



# The German Tribune

Hamburg, 9 March 1986  
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## Chance for common sense in superpower dialogue

### DIE ZEIT

Could world affairs have reached a turning-point? Might superpower statesmen finally find their way out of the vicious circle of blind mistrust and constant arms build-up?

Could it be that a return to detente is possible and that a constellation will arise in which it is more instinctively and more reliably based than in the 1970s?

For the first time in ages cautious optimism is warranted.

In his opening address at the 27th Soviet Communist Party congress Mr Gorbachov may have sounded harsh

nute inward Washington, saying the Soviet Union had no intention of striking its snails in international affairs.

But if it is to solve its enormous domestic problems it needs East-West relations based not on bitter confrontation but on cooperation to a growing extent.

President Reagan may be sticking to his plans for anti-missile defences in outer space, but his first answer to the new Soviet leader's disarmament programme shows signs of US readiness to halt the arms race and even reverse it a turn of the screw.

It is a fresh opportunity for common sense, and a convenient one in three counts:

- First, we are living in a fairly tension-free stage in world affairs.
- Second, economic constraints are pulling in the same direction in both East and West, with neither able any longer to afford both guns and missiles.
- Third, there is a universal realisation that the existing deterrent dogma is bound to plunge mankind into disaster unless it is brought to political reason."

Unlike Mr Khrushchov, who promised to draw level with and overtake the United States by 1970, they are not making the 270 million Soviet citizens unrealistic promises.

The latest growth rate target is a modest four per cent a year, and even this modest target presupposes a treacherous political situation in which the economy is to work.

Mobilising and motivating people alone will not be enough. More discipline, less alcohol, more honesty, less

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### OBITUARIES

## ■ WORLD AFFAIRS

## Marcos ouster alone solves few of Manila's problems

**NÜRNBERGER Nachrichten**

For the second time in a matter of weeks, first in Haiti, then in the Philippines, the United States has played its part in helping to oust a dictatorial regime.

America's conservative Republican President has in both cases done exactly what he accused his conservative Democratic predecessor, Jimmy Carter, of doing in Somoza's Nicaragua: dropping like hot potatoes allies loyal to the United States for leudes.

This need hardly be reprehensible when the moves are in fact so very encouraging, being based on the clear recognition that the casting of the Haitian and Philippine dictators was long overdue. Better late, one is tempted to say, than never.

In the Philippine crisis the Americans certainly reacted more than they acted. Last year, when President Marcos was first warned by Washington, the aim was to shore up the shaky regime and not oust it.

Scepticism grew among his friends on the Putomac when the stubborn dictator chose to ignore the threat to his rule from both the Muslim and Communist guerrillas and widespread public dissatisfaction with his regime.

President Reagan's expectation that his opposite number in Manila would at least be able to legitimise his rule once more by victory at the polls burst like a soap bubble.

Despite the most outrageous electoral chicanery for ages the White House was serenely unaware of the true situation and felt to the last it might still save its old ally.

Washington had unrealistic visions of collaboration between the Opposition and the hated despot, and it took the decision by military leaders to abandon President Marcos to decide the US government finally to abandon the old regime.

These facts must be recalled in painstaking detail, and not just out of spite but because only a level-headed, unbiased analysis of events can shed light on further progress.

The United States can be seen to lack a clear concept for the future of its Third World partners — just as it has so far been caught on the hop by the course of events.

After recent unfortunate experiences the United States has clearly parted company with the illusion that right-wing authoritarian rulers guarantee long-term stability in their sphere of influence.

That alone is a striking change of mind which has led to the gradual democratisation of major Latin American countries, such as Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay.

But the tyrants' departure is not enough. If Washington is to seize the resulting historic opportunity it must acknowledge the common root cause of crisis in many countries affected: the need for deep-seated structural reform.

This America can only do in frank acknowledgement of the trauma of global strategic bases that did in deed fall in swift

succession like dominoes: Cuba, Vietnam, Cambodia, Iran and Nicaragua.

The majority of people in South America and in the Philippines suffer from conditions best described as a Spanish disease dating back to their respective colonial days.

Gigantic estates and immense wealth in few hands are characteristic of this state of affairs, as is the unbelievable misery in which the remainder live.

Hopes of lasting stability are bound to be wishful thinking for as long as property is so unevenly distributed and social injustice is so striking.

Conclusions of a much more far-reaching extent than hitherto envisaged are urgently needed. They must extend to a fundamental rethink of conventional North-South policy and a revision of present attempts to deal with international debt problems.

Demonstrative elections as in Guatemala or El Salvador as demanded by Washington to prove governments are democratic and freely elected are certainly not enough. First, as playwright Bert Brecht drastically puts it, comes the full belly, then morality.

Fraud, exploitation, torture and murder have been hallmarks of the past 20 years. Domestic peace will only take the place of permanent terror provided social progress comes to light and overlays this darkest chapter in Philippine history.

For the time being the armed resistance movement will doubtless continue to fight underground.

Christian S. Krebs

(Nürnberger Nachrichten, 26 February 1986)

Continued from page 1

mismangement: they too will not suffice.

Improvements in economic mechanism as envisaged in the Party programme cannot clinch matters either. Structural reforms are needed too. Modernising the Soviet economy calls for blueprints and cash.

It is hard to see where the advanced technology and financial wherewithal are to come from — if not from the capitalist West.

Eastern Europe can hardly step up its exports to the Soviet Union to any great extent. The GDR and Czechoslovakia may have done so last year, but all other East Bloc countries run a deficit in trade with their Soviet Big Brother. Their product quality likewise leaves much to be desired.

When he took office five years ago his entourage naively felt America could somehow simply arm the Soviet Union to death.

Now only a handful of blinkered ideologues still hold this belief in Washington. Everyone else has since realised that the United States cannot afford both a military build-up and civil wealth.

What matters is to make peace thinkable. As yet the two sides are still far apart. Mr Gorbachov's disarmament, Mr Reagan's space plans and so on, proposals to eliminate medium-range missiles in Europe are all controversial.

But for the first time in 10 years there is at least a chance of the two sides seriously arguing the points again.

The US budget deficit, which to crown it all has resulted in international economic upsets, is now to be dramatically reduced.

Where and how cuts are to be imposed remains to be seen, but one point is clear: the Pentagon's budget can no longer be spared.

Not even budget appropriations for President Reagan's pet project will be spared; SDI estimates can expect to be further reduced.

When the axe comes, that could mean a \$75bn cut in Mr Reagan's \$312bn defence estimates. The best he can hope for is a freeze in defence spending.

Financial constraints must be joined in both East and West by a reappraisal of the way to be paved for common sense.

The past 40 years ought to have taught us all that a constant arms race no longer brings security for anyone. An

The Cubans may live in tyranny again, as the Americans are right in pointing out, but there can be no denying that people in Haiti, which is only 70km to the east, are on the verge of famine.

For them, as for the plucky Filipinos, who could hardly have demonstrated their love of freedom more strikingly, what now matters first and foremost is whether social and economic change, longed for by generations, can now go ahead.

Every other Filipino is either out of work or chronically underemployed. Over the last decade real wages under Marcos have been halved.

Nepotism, corruption and the transfer abroad of enormous sums of money have caused economic agony.

Although the Philippines, which is DM63bn in debt, needed every penny to avert financial collapse it has slowly bled to death as a result of this exodus of capital.

Can Corazon Aquino and her associates, all from the rich landowning families, grasp the problems of the millions and millions of poor, let alone take them seriously or do anything about them?

This question must for the time being go unanswered, just as must the question whether the new government in Manila will succeed in containing the traditionally dominant political influence of the military and disciplining the notorious security forces as a whole.

Fraud, exploitation, torture and murder have been hallmarks of the past 20 years. Domestic peace will only take the place of permanent terror provided social progress comes to light and overlays this darkest chapter in Philippine history.

For the time being the armed resistance movement will doubtless continue to fight underground.

Klaus Kleemann

(Westdeutsche Allgemeine, Essen, 3 March 1986)

The situation is little different in the United States. True, America may have been through a boom in recent years. New jobs have been created and GNP growth rates have been substantial.

But it has been a boom on borrowed money, paid for by Federal budget deficits totalling roughly \$200bn a year.

President Reagan, a conservative, has emerged as the largest debt-monkey in American history with a kind of military Keynesianism.

When he took office five years ago his entourage naively felt America could somehow simply arm the Soviet Union to death.

Now only a handful of blinkered ideologues still hold this belief in Washington. Everyone else has since realised that the United States cannot afford both a military build-up and civil wealth.

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## Violent death of a man of peace

Politicians are always in danger. The more important and influential a position is, the greater the risk they run in a world in which violence, up to and including murder, is increasingly used to settle personal and political problems.

It is particularly sad irony that this violence in no way spares those who committed to peace and to striking its

Swedish Premier Olof Palme, killed in an assassin's bullet, was one such. What he said and what he did was for many, yet he was evidently able to avoid attracting the hatred of

His pressure for a peaceful settlement extended to intergovernmental roles, especially ties with the Third World & to relations within Swedish society.

It was doubtless because he was one of having made a major contribution to and relaxing tension in Sweden that led him to dispense with his police bodyguard.

He was one of the few politicians triggered both personal sympathy & brought to mind the epithet "credible".

His personal integrity even earned the respect of those who felt his approach to, say, arms control was wrong.

The mourning evident at the spot where he was shot and killed was an impressive demonstration. In its spontaneity and quiet it testifies to people feeling deeply affected by the assassination.

This sorrow certainly makes it clear that one of the world's few great men died the bullet of bullets in a deserted Stockholm street.

Klaus Kleemann

(Westdeutsche Allgemeine, Essen, 3 March 1986)

outlook based solely on stability & means of drawing level with the oil side will only increase potentials, note due them.

An approach determined by mathematicians and physicists will invariably end in horrific scenarios in which the deterrent fails. It must be replaced by psychological and political viewpoint that doesn't see something as probable merely because it appears conceivable.

A rethink is needed and has already begun. The new Soviet Party programme continues to sing the praises of peaceful coexistence, no longer as a specific form of class struggle but as a prerequisite for survival in the nuclear era.

What matters is to make peace thinkable. As yet the two sides are still far apart. Mr Gorbachov's disarmament, Mr Reagan's space plans and so on, proposals to eliminate medium-range missiles in Europe are all controversial.

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## ■ FOREIGN AFFAIRS

### South Africa at crossroads, says Buthelezi in Bonn

DIE ZEIT

Buthelezi explained that he has no intention of being dragged into negotiations which simply set out to create absurd and sham-democratic parliamentary structures.

He already refused to participate in the President's Council P.W. Botha set up several years ago.

"It is ridiculous", he said, "to set up a black advisory council to advise the President's advisory council!"

Whenever the government tried to gain Buthelezi's support he always demanded a clear definition of the intended role of the blacks in the government's plans.

Fifty-seven-year-old Gatscha Buthelezi is the cousin of the ruler of the six million Zulus, the largest tribe in South Africa.

This explains why he is such an important figure in the government's plans. Buthelezi studied history and African administration at Fort Hare University.

During my interview with Chief Buthelezi it soon became clear that he is still the cool observer and convinced democrat he always was regardless of the hostilities to which he has been recently subjected.

Back home in South Africa Buthelezi, who is against violence and for negotiations with the South African government, is almost unpopular in certain circles as President Botha.

Botha has been forced to try and pacify the right-wingers in his National Party and calm down the whites who are worried about their country's future.

He still speaks affectionately of Nelson Mandela, whose release he always emphatically demanded.

Level-headed leadership is important. In itself, in a movement which is becoming more and more radical.

In answer to my question whether he could imagine a Buthelezi-Slabbert condominium in Pretoria at some stage in the future he replied: "No, for if Nelson Mandela is elected I shall loyally support him".

Buthelezi has bitterly fought the new constitution, which gives Indians and Coloureds (persons of mixed race) the right to vote, pointing out that this would result in a catastrophe — which it has.

It was his proposal which in 1980 led to the setting up of a commission named after him, which drew up some extremely useful proposals for the removal of apartheid.

In his younger years he was a member of the ANC youth group and worked together with Albert Luthuli, the president of the ANC who was later awarded a Nobel prize.

He still speaks affectionately of Nelson Mandela, whose release he always emphatically demanded.

Buthelezi is uncompromising on this point. He is a cut-and-dried opponent of violence.

It is ludicrous," he says, "to claim that the government is shaky and that power for the blacks is within reach. So far the government has only used a fraction of its tremendous power.

"What is more, preconditions for a revolution do not exist; the army and the bureaucracy is loyal to the government".

Chief Buthelezi is president of the Inkatha, a cultural liberation movement of his tribe, which already has a million members.

He is a strong advocate of a state under the rule of law and feels that democratic institutions are absolutely essential.

The government, too, is angry at the fact that he rejects everything which does not tally with his own democratic principles.

And what does Buthelezi expect in the near future?

"We're standing at a crossroads. Either South Africa will manage to form a government of national unity" appointed in June 1985, "or open up possibilities for political activity to parties in Namibia".

This government, however, could also be an attempt to obtain Namibia's independence.

Buthelezi is convinced that negotiations are the only answer.

Nevertheless, he has stuck to the annoyance of President Botha, refused to take part in any kind of negotiations with the government until it issues a statement of intent.

The leader of the country's white opposition, Frederik van Zyl Slabbert, was so disgusted at the government's "amateurism, dishonesty, deceitfulness and blindness" that he resigned his office and seat in parliament.

His aim is a one-man-one-vote system,

although he knows this cannot be achieved overnight.

Such men are few and far between.

COUNTESS Marion Dönhoff

(Die Zeit, Hamburg, 28 February 1986)

## ■ THE COURTS

### New line-up ahead at Karlsruhe court

**DIE WELT**

In the early 1980s the Federal Constitutional Court in Karlsruhe looked like grinding to a halt under pressure of a growing number of cases pending.

This pressure has since been eased, says Chief Justice Wolfgang Zeidler. Last year there was a further decline in the number of new cases registered.

In 1983 the Karlsruhe court groaned under weight of 4,000 new cases. In 1984 the number was 3,484. Last year saw a further decline to 3,141.

A survey commissioned by the Federal Interior Ministry in mid-1985 shows only the head of state to enjoy higher reputation than "Karlsruhe" as a government institution.

And the chances of constitutional appeals being upheld is no worse than in the past. For years the court has found in favour of the plaintiff in a steady 1.2 per cent of cases.

So the further decline in new cases last year can mainly be attributed, Professor Zeidler feels, to suggestions that a few might have to be charged for appeals that are dismissed.

Since the New Year the court has been entitled to award costs, in the form of a fee, against the plaintiffs in cases dismissed. Zeidler sees this as a means of self-defence to stop pointless cases from being registered.

Yet the backlog is still far from having been caught up with. Cases pending before the two chambers increased in number last year from 1,661 to 1,777.

As the court and its 16 judges will this year be dealing more than ever with political disputes, there is little likelihood of relief in 1986.

The burden will probably increase now seven of the 16 are due to retire in the next year and a half.

This largest and most sweeping manpower change in the history of the Federal Constitutional Court will take place gradually but is already beginning to affect the work of the two chambers.

The first of the seven to retire will be Hans Justus Rinck in October. He has served the second chamber for 18 years without ever making headline news.

Controversy persists over whether the SPD is entitled to nominate his successor. Assuming the Social Democrats are entitled, his place will be taken by a woman.

Yet the SPD working party are finding it easier said than done to nominate a suitable candidate.

She must be a judge at one of the five supreme courts but she mustn't be a member of the SPD.

Hans Justus Rinck is one of the four "neutral" members of the court: Professor Konrad Hesse and Franz Niedermayer of the first chamber and Professor Helmut Steinberger and Hans Justus Rinck of the second.

Ingeborg Wolff of the Federal Welfare Court in Kassel would probably have been the likeliest SPD nominee, but she is now said to be out of the running on family grounds.

That leaves a trio of women judges said to have been shortlisted, but no one knows who is the favourite.

Ingeborg Franke of the Federal Administrative Court in Berlin enjoys a slight advantage over Christine Krohn and Karin Glasshoff of the *Bundesgerichtshof* in Karlsruhe in that her court deals with civil service issues. Hans Justus Rinck can fairly expect his successor to be appointed before he retires; not so Professor Konrad Hesse, the well-known Freiburg constitutional lawyer.

His term expires a few days after the 31 January 1987 general election deadline, so the Bundesrat is unlikely to appoint a successor until several weeks later.

His successor will probably be chosen together with the judges who will replace five men due to retire in November 1987.

The outgoing judges are Helmut Simon and Dietrich Katzenstein of the first chamber and Chief Justice Zeidler, Mannheim international lawyer Helmut Steinberger, and Engelbert Niebler of the second.

Apart from Erich Steffen, the SPD head of the Press law chamber at the *Bundesgerichtshof* in Stuttgart, who has

been earmarked to replace Helmut Simon, only one point seems as good as sure.

It is that Chief Justice Zeidler, the first Social Democrat ever to hold the post, will be succeeded by a Christian Democrat, Professor Roman Herzog.

Professor Herzog, currently deputy chief justice and head of the first chamber, has been as little inclined to be at his party's beck and call as has Professor Zeidler, who is a statistician by inclination.

He is Eberhard Franzen, 48, a man Federal Administrative Court chief justice Horst Senderle would sooner see as his own successor.

He is not only an outstanding judge, he also enjoys the full confidence of his party as a former member of staff of the Social Democratic parliamentary party in Bonn.

Professor Kissel, a Social Democrat

(Dtsch. Presse-Agentur)

wonder whether this state of affairs must persist. Article 97 of Basic Law, the 1949 Bonn constitution, says "judges are independent and subject only to the law."

How can they judge impartially if ruling parties try to ensure that their nominees are elected?

How can they be impartial if the people concerned are far from happy with this state of affairs. Primarily party-political appointments do courts' prestige no good and fail to give public confidence in the judiciary.

Party-political bias is extremely bad policy. All judges, both those preferred and those who aren't, know the appointees' party-political background to play no part whatever.

It is unfair to judges for politics to give rise to expectations judges are not fully fulfilling.

Even judges who belong to a party are bound by the law as neither able nor willing to give political judgments.

The appointments panel and composition are laid down in the constitution, but it is in my job to benefit from a suggestion that was to have been made 15 years ago by chief justice of the five male Federal Courts.

Only those who took part will know what happened at the proceedings, which were held in camera.

But after the SPD walkout the judges appointed were mainly CDU men. For the Federal Labour Court for instance three CDU men and one SPD were selected.

The man in the street is bound to

(Der Tagesspiegel, Berlin, 19 February)



Outgoing judges Helmut Simon, Wolfgang Zeidler and Hans Justus Rinck. (Photo: Sven Simon)

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A popular choice would have been Professor Otto Rudolf Kissel, head of the Federal Labour Court in Kassel. But at 57 he is too old for the SPD.

Professor Kissel, a Social Democrat

(Dtsch. Presse-Agentur)

considerations of any kind being totally ruled out, he said.

Superhuman or not, it would certainly have been in vain. Hours later behind closed doors in another courtroom, a CDU judge was given preference over a far better-qualified SPD man who had been with the court for four years.

If that were true of Martin Kriele he would surely not have edited last year a book by Tomberg on Lazarus and the Miracle of the Resurrection.

It tells the tale of a journey to a country where hopes have been dashed.

When it appeared, Hans-Jürgen Wischniowski penned personally derogatory remarks in the *Sozialdemokratischer Presseleiter* to which Kriele was given opportunity to reply.

That could hardly clash more embarrassingly with the fair play slogan SPD Shadow Chancellor Johannes Rau has adopted.

Kurt Reimann

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 1 February 1986)

Cologne constitutional lawyer Martin Kriele is so soft-spoken that the explosive punch he packs, as yet within the SPD, comes as a surprise.

In the early 1970s he was a Social Democrat with strong views on the German Question who argued the Brandt government's case on the 1972 Basic Treaty between the two German states before the Federal Constitutional Court.

He since seems to have sided against SPD leader Willy Brandt even though he still feels it was right for Bonn to clarify just where it stood in the Enst.

But he now accuses Hert Brandt as chairman of the Socialist International of allowing the Americans to be vilified as the arch-enemies instead.

Professor Kriele fears the difference between democracy and dictatorship is being disregarded simply because the SPD is not prepared to compare its dreams with the reality.

He cites glorification of the dictatorship in Nicaragua as an instance of what he calls justification lies: The Cologne prof has roused the ire of political dreamers. He is in the process of being expelled from the SPD.

He is Eberhard Franzen, 48, a man Federal Administrative Court chief justice Horst Senderle would sooner see as his own successor.

He is not only an outstanding judge, he also enjoys the full confidence of his party as a former member of staff of the Social Democratic parliamentary party in Bonn.

Henning Frank

(Dtsch. Presse-Agentur)

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(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 1 February 1986)

This may be a fair practice in staffing Ministries with senior civil servants, but ought it to apply to judges, who forgoed reason cannot be dismissed?

State secretary Manfred Baden of the Federal Labour Ministry recently went to Kassel to see off the outgoing vice-president of the Federal Labour Court and present his successor with his credentials.

The court's chief justice, Otto Rudolf Kissel, took the opportunity of referring in public to criticism of the way in which judges were appointed.

They were legally appointed, he said, by Bundestag MPs and Land Ministers, who were bound to be guided by political considerations.

It would be expecting superhuman achievement to insist on party-political

(Der Tagesspiegel, Berlin, 19 February)

## ■ PEOPLE

### SPD legal expert faces expulsion

Cologne constitutional lawyer Martin Kriele is so soft-spoken that the explosive punch he packs, as yet within the SPD, comes as a surprise.

In the early 1970s he was a Social Democrat with strong views on the German Question who argued the Brandt government's case on the 1972 Basic Treaty between the two German states before the Federal Constitutional Court.

He since seems to have sided against SPD leader Willy Brandt even though he still feels it was right for Bonn to clarify just where it stood in the Enst.

But he now accuses Hert Brandt as chairman of the Socialist International of allowing the Americans to be vilified as the arch-enemies instead.

As assistant general secretary of the DGB, Germany's Düsseldorf-based trades union confederation, he is such a thorn in the flesh for some Christian Democrats that there have been calls to expel him.

Kriele was later to write for Wolff his PhD thesis on Criteria of Justice and his *Habilitationsschrift*, a further PhD required of German university teachers before they qualify as professors, on the Theory of Arriving at Justice.

He is in the process of being expelled from the SPD.

He cites glorification of the dictatorship in Nicaragua as an instance of what he calls justification lies: The Cologne prof has roused the ire of political dreamers. He is in the process of being expelled from the SPD.

He has strongly attacked his party, the CDU, in public despite his close and longstanding associate, Labour Minister Norbert Blüm, having been responsible for the controversial plan to amend unemployment benefit regulations.

Fehrenbach is convinced the proposed amendment is a blow at the trade unions' very ability to hold a strike, and that, he feels, is taboo.

He started as a junior postman in Passe and came up from the ranks to a senior Post Office rank.

He has been a staunch trade unionist since the age of 20 and still feels strong ties with the grass roots and fancies there are too many eggheads on trade union executive committees.

He was first a works councillor, then vice-chairman of the Regensburg region of the Postal Workers Union.

From 1965 he served as full-time assistant general secretary of the Postal Workers Union in Frankfurt. He and general secretary Ernst Breit moved to Düsseldorf in 1982 as general and assistant general secretary of the DGB.

Leonhard Spielhofer

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, Cologne, 22 January 1986)



Martin Kriele

(Photo: Brigitte Friedl)

task of post-war reconstruction. This commitment led to a close personal friendship, just as did his invitation of constitutional lawyer Hans Julius Wolff to speak on What is Justice?

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He has strongly attacked his party, the CDU, in public despite his close and longstanding associate, Labour Minister Norbert Blüm, having been responsible for the controversial plan to amend unemployment benefit regulations.

He has never stopped him from overtaking SPD trade unionists on the left if he felt their views on an issue were too right-wing.

Yet that has never stopped him from being a trade unionist to bring the unions' case to the CDU.

He is a paratrooper and wounded five times during the Second World War. He has been a member of the CSU since 1953 and the CDU since 1966.

He is a member of the CDU social committees, the working-class wing of the Christian Democrats, would sooner see him as their "Iron Gustav."

Fehrenbach, 61, was born in Lörrach, Baden-Württemberg, but orphaned at eight. He grew up with an uncle in Passau, Bavaria.

As assistant general secretary of the DGB, Germany's Düsseldorf-based trades union confederation, he is such a thorn in the flesh for some Christian Democrats that there have been calls to expel him.

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## ■ TRADE

## Barter trade can be big business, not just bargain basement

**C**ounter trade, rather than cash, is becoming more and more common in international trading. Everyone complains about it, but no one can ignore it.

Many complain about this form of trade without actually suffering from it. What is known as counter trade, compensation trading or parallel trade is, for a resourceful businessman, another business opportunity.

Fritz Wüller, executive board chairman of Thyssen-Han deslunten of Düsseldorf grumbled once: "We cannot see this development as being in any way positive or worthwhile."

He talked of counter trade as being an emergency solution, a backward step and an Old Testament practice. But he had something to say in favour of counter trade.

"Our company's structure and organisation offers many opportunities to us in counter trading and in the future this will be further exploited," he said.

The Wholesale and Export Trade Association and the West German Export Trade Association, doffing their caps to their free trade obligations, regard counter trade as a backward step and would like support if in any way, but they accept that it cannot be avoided.

These statements appeared in a foreword to a brochure they published jointly and entitled "Business in Counter Trade," in which 310 companies outline the services they offer in counter trading.

Companies dealing in this barter trading are listed, as well as the merchandise they handle and the countries they serve.

If a medium-sized West German engineering company is offered dried hibiscus leaves in exchange for a lathe, instead of dollars, by a developing country, the despairing West German executive can find consolation on page 26 of the brochure.

From that page he learns that the firm Völpel KG in Königsmoos, Bavaria, can be of assistance. If the three partners can come to an agreement there is nothing standing in the way of the deal.

The developing country sells the hibiscus leaves to Völpel, is paid for the leaves in cash which is then handed over in payment for the lathe.

If no one knew how to bring off these transactions there would be no talk at all about counter trade.

In the purely legal sense the merchandise is sold twice for cash. The West German exporter has only shown the developing country how it can dispose of its hibiscus leaves. The exporter has made things easier for the importing country to buy the lathe, easing the way for its export.

However complicated counter trading may be and no matter how much it may bring to mind times before money came into use, it is flourishing.

Newsweek recently spoke of a counter trade fever and reported that today 88 countries were involved in this trading practice against only 15 in 1973.

No-one is quite sure just how much of world trade is accounted for by counter trading. The US Department of Trade estimates that it is between ten and 20 per cent.

Klaus Richter, president of the Wholesale and Export Trade Association, talks of between five and ten per

## DIE WELT

One thing is certain, however: the trend is growing.

There is at present a small break in the growth rate of counter trading because the most favoured money surrogate, crude oil, is discredited.

The oil-producing countries have increasingly turned to crude oil to pay for their imports.

Günther Sommer of Yeba Oil International, Hamburg, says: "There is nothing wrong with crude at the present." The market is so confused and chaotic that no-one will take oil in payment, he adds.

The difference between the official Opec oil price and the market price is so great that the gap cannot be bridged by a support price.

Sommer has raised the key expression in counter trade: "support price."

Anyone who helps a West German exporter to close a counter trade deal involving East Bloc or developing country products pays a very much reduced price for the bartered goods.

The exporter makes adjustments for this — he "supports" his trade partner financially.

It goes without saying that the exporter raises his price to cover what he has paid as a support price in the deal.

The marketing organisation for the tinited vegetables knows that its foreign earnings are urgently needed by the engineering industry. So the engineering industry has to pay for this in the deal.

Support is frequently paid when it is not necessary.

Businessmen who buy East Bloc products because they are good business, like to test out the counter trade worthiness of the products concerned.

Should a West German exporter be looking for a partner in a counter trade deal, he is then on the spot. He is offered the support price which is in essence nothing else but commission.

Kurt Weiß from Salzgitter AG, the steel giant, says that large trading houses sell a lot in the East Bloc and "they have realised that there is a lot more money to be made in this business."

From that page he learns that the firm Völpel KG in Königsmoos, Bavaria, can be of assistance. If the three partners can come to an agreement there is nothing standing in the way of the deal.

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What medium-sized companies achieve in partnership with a firm with expertise in counter trading, goes on under one roof in major companies.

Fritz Wüller said: "There are for comparatively speaking, no problems in exchanging steel for scrap, pipes, oil, coal for steel or metallurgical products."

He pointed out that another variation in counter trading was in case part of the financing going to an investment company with a contract to manufacture products, "so long this was in line with our trade policies."

For the past seven years the Thyssen group has operated a commercial intelligence office to make it easier for companies in the group to hand counter trade.

A group company that accepts goods instead of cash can find out if it can sell within the group.

Even banks who by nature think of the free market economy, do not quibble about it.

People did look disapprovingly, though, when Bulgaria paid for steel from Dortmund with a jar of roses that was eventually sold to India.

It is not easy to see why support is necessary, why countries with weak currencies should demand inflated prices for goods difficult to sell.

So Gerling has regained control of his firm. Together with his previous 49-per-cent stake in the DM140m paid-up capital of the holding company he now owns 89 per cent of the insurance company he founded.

Despite a number of bad years in damage and accident insurance, especially third-party insurance in the United States, Gerling had his efforts amply lined for B-Day (B for buyback), including proceeds from the liquidation of Herstatt.

It would be utterly unlike Gerling to take a partner from the insurance trade into the business — and less like him still to throw in his lot with anyone else!

Besides, the Cologne insurance king still has first say if the remaining 11 per cent ever comes on to the market.

For the moment we know no more about the purchase price than we do about how Gerling raised the cash: an estimated DM380m-DM400m.

For tax reasons Herr Flick is likely to

## ■ MANAGEMENT

## Hans Gerling is back in full control of Cologne insurance group

When the Gerling Group's press department announced in Cologne on 30 January in a single, convoluted sentence that Hans Gerling had regained majority control of the firm's share capital, Germany's largest family-owned insurance company had already been bought back for a month.

What was surprising about the deal, in which the stake held by Friedrich Karl Flick, 59, was bought back by Hans Gerling, 70, was less the fact itself than the speed at which the transaction took place.

Rumours he might be selling his 54-per-cent share in Frankona reinsurance of Munich have merely sent Frankona's stock exchange quotations skyrocketing.

Frankona have reported such firm trading and sound profits (certainly better than average) than Gerling's own, Globale Rück, that selling would have made no sense.

Despite a number of bad years in damage and accident insurance, especially third-party insurance in the United States, Gerling had his efforts amply lined for B-Day (B for buyback), including proceeds from the liquidation of Herstatt.

As they are mainly industrialists and personal friends who stood by him in the bad old days when the Herstatt Bank crashed in 1974, nearly taking the insurance company with it, Gerling feels able to tolerate this minority.

Besides, the Cologne insurance king still has first say if the remaining 11 per cent ever comes on to the market.

For the moment we know no more about the purchase price than we do about how Gerling raised the cash: an estimated DM380m-DM400m.

Their combined premium earnings in

third party, motor, legal, life and reinsurance are likely to have totalled roughly DM5.6bn last year.

Add foreign and overseas business and you will probably arrive at world premium earnings of DM6.5bn to DM6.8bn a year, and that doesn't include Hans Gerling's private, i.e. non-group, personal business activities.

Unlike Flick, Gerling did more than inherit his money. He earned more. He has been responsible for product, marketing and pricing innovations in commercial insurance.

They have been innovations that have more than once fuelled the fires of competition, much to the chagrin of other insurers.

In recent years Gerling has systematically set about attracting private business.

He has never been interested in real partners. He is not a man capable of tolerating others as his equal, as his own brothers found out to their cost.

Robert and Walter Gerling were bundled out of the controlling management in 1969 and 1965 respectively and paid off.

Hans Gerling then retained sole control of what was already a large and wide-ranging group.

Even at the height of the Herstatt crash he never entirely surrendered control. As deputy chairman of the supervisory board he was omnipresent in the running of Gerling Group companies and by 1978, partly in response to a request by Gerling executives, he resumed control as board chairman of the holding company.

That was bound to create the impression that he was indispensable.

By this time he had strongly — and successfully — opposed a partial takeover bid by the Swiss Zürich insurance group. He was less successful in opposing the purchase of the Zürich shareholding by Flick.

He went to court on this issue but lost. Flick retained a majority in the VHDI shareholding in Gerling equity.

Gerling remained intimately associated with the running of his company. His contract was later renewed by Flick himself for a three-year term ending in mid-1987.

But he dislikes publicity. Next to no-one ever sees Hans Gerling. He is a reserved, not to say misanthropic, and this personal trait was intensified when, in 1974, banker Iwan D. Herstatt and his staff lost billions in foreign exchange speculation, much to Gerling's chagrin.

As majority shareholder and supervisory board chairman of the Herstatt Bank Holding, Gerling might arguably have felt obliged to



(Photo: Poly-Bress)

admit that he too had been partly to blame, if only for placing too much trust in Herstatt, but owning up to personal mistakes has never been a strong point of his.

Never — neither legally nor morally — has Gerling admitted to the slightest blame or responsibility for the bank's closure.

Under public pressure he grumbly, hesitantly paid the bank's creditors. This hesitation proved well worth while. Creditors overwhelmingly agreed to the composition terms offered, ruling out the foreseeable risks of litigation.

He spent DM210m from the proceeds of half his insurance empire on meeting thousands of bank creditors' demands. Settlement is still in progress. Gerling has never yet appeared in court.

He has a strictly limited number of real personal friends, arguably because of an elite streak in his personality. Gerling is an economics graduate who would have liked to become an architect.

Views may differ on the looks of the cold, cold, monumental head office buildings in Cologne, but after years in the doldrums Hans Gerling at 70 cannot be denied to have rebuilt and expanded his entrepreneurial activities.

What, then, about the succession? His son Rolf Gerling, 31, and three daughters are not the sole heirs but Rolf, like his father before him, is being groomed young to take over the management.

Again like his father, Gerling jr. stays out of the limelight. He lives in Zollikon, Switzerland, where he is on the board of the insurance firms his father privately owns and on the board of the Global Reinsurance group in Zug, Switzerland.

He is also on the supervisory board of the holding company, Gerling Konzern Holding (GKH), of which his father has lately resumed control.

Harald Posny

(Die Welt, Bonn, 17 February 1986)

## Privatisers are undecided on Lufthansa

Consideration is being given to privatising the railways' shareholding in the Deutsche Pfandbriefanstalt, a government-owned mortgage bank, in line for partial privatisation, but the legislation needed to authorise privatisation will not be passed before the January 1987 general election.

Kurt Weiß from Salzgitter AG, the steel giant, says that large trading houses force on us goods we don't need.

Then why do East Bloc and developing countries not themselves sell their products for cash and then invest the money to be made in this business?

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Agreement was reached on further privatisation of a number of state holdings in firms wholly or partly owned by the government, but talks on Lufthansa were merely to be continued, it was said.

Finance Minister Stoltenberg and Transport Minister Döllinger seem keen on reducing the state holding in Lufthansa from 75 to 55 per cent, but Bavarian Premier Franz Josef Strauss, a member of the airline's supervisory board, remains strongly opposed to any such idea.

The Bonn coalition agreement is aimed at fleshing out the March 1985 privatisation concept.

In June the Federal government is to sell 40 per cent of the DM580m capital of VIAG, a government-owned conglomerate dealing mainly in energy, oil, aluminium and chemicals.

Also in June, 47 per cent of Praka-

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then the seller must in return do something about marketing the products of his partner to the deal.

The answer is simple: they can't.

Erika Janzen from the West German Wholesale and Export Association is convinced that the reason is "not the lack of hard currencies but the organisational rigidity of East Bloc economic systems that do not know anything about marketing." This has provided the impetus for counter trading.

Kurt Weiß says the same thing. In the East Bloc the seller is king. His goods are snatched up instantly. A mentality has developed that doesn't see the need for doing business with the West.

There is widespread acceptance in the West now that if a sale is to be made,

Heinz-Günther Kemmer

(Die Zeit, Hamburg, 21 February 1986)

## ■ WORK

## Jobless show signs of political unrest at Bad Boll

**STUTTGARTER ZEITUNG**

A video film produced by a Hamburg-based self-help group for the unemployed caused a stir at the sixth meeting of action groups for the unemployed at the Protestant Church Academy in Bad Boll.

It showed how a group of unemployed people in Hamburg forcibly obtained free admission to a theatre, a swimming baths and a zoo and free travel on the city's suburban railway last autumn.

The protest, which set out to demonstrate the extent to which the jobless are cut off from cultural and other activities for lack of money, was said to have met with widespread local approval.

Other alternative ways of increasing public awareness of the problems facing the unemployed discussed during the meeting were not so "violent".

There was talk of introducing a special unemployment card entitling its holders to certain benefits, but the 120 Baden-Württemberg groups represented in no way supported illegal action.

The first groups were set up in 1978. The Protestant Academy pined its rooms at their disposal right from the start and Klaus Flügger gradually assumed the role of an honest broker and understanding mediator.

To begin with, information, advice and public relations activities were of key importance. Today, the emphasis is on finding and creating jobs.

A growing number of groups have secured the financial backing of the various church groups or trade unions.

Where the churches have focused on the material as well as the mental and spiritual problems of the unemployed right from the very start, the unions initially saw themselves as representatives of the employed.

The Düsseldorf-based DGB, or German Trade Union Confederation, now seeks contact with groups.

For most of the unemployed who come to Bad Boll the meetings provide an opportunity to exchange ideas and find out what other groups are doing.

Developments are still in a state of flux and the approaches groups adopt vary from one region to the next.

Some projects have already proved unsuccessful, whereas others, for example in Freudenstadt, could provide an example worth emulating.

The Freudenstadt group managed to set up a circle of 120 friends and donors and furnish the apartments of asylum applicants with furniture donated free of charge.

This project created six jobs, which may not seem a great deal but is due reward for inventive self-help.

A Hesse group set up a firm under self-management called *blütterwald EG*, creating about 80 jobs.

During the meeting in Bad Boll the firm's founders claimed it was doing well.

The money *blütterwald* workers earn is paid according to their need and not according to their ability, an approach which turns generally accepted economic principles upside down.

Albert Krahn, one of the initiators of this cooperative, called upon other groups to follow suit and create jobs rather than just demand them.

So far, efforts by the unemployed have not been very successful. Many feel they have been "written off" by those who (still) have a job.

As Hansjörg Böhringer pointed out, 3,000 unemployed people drew social security in Stuttgart today as opposed to four 10 years ago, characterising what has happened during the last decade.

In view of this feeling of helplessness the discussion during the latest meeting of Baden-Württemberg groups centred on the question of whether an amalgamation of these groups might not open up the possibility of exerting political influence.

An attempt to reach agreement with political parties was unsuccessful.

Many groups now feel they should join forces to create a political force to be reckoned with.

The model suggested was to split the Land of Baden-Württemberg into six regions, which would then be represented in an umbrella organisation.

This organisation should provide a united representation externally, carry out public relations and advisory work, and try to obtain financial support.

The activities of the senior members of this organisation should be on a professional rather than honorary basis.

The underlying idea is that this umbrella organisation could function as a mouthpiece for the unemployed during the forthcoming general election campaign as well as exert political pressure.

This proposal (made by the Heidelberg group) was discussed by five working parties. The merger idea was then accepted by a large majority, and a delegation

The man was a skilled shipyard worker for thirty years before a machine was installed which could do his job faster and more efficiently.

He was moved to another job, a job which an apprentice could have done with absolutely no training.

His wife almost had a nervous-breakdown after he started literally breaking up the happy home and "talking rubbish."

This is just one of many cases outlined by sociologists and psychologists in *Individuelle und gesellschaftliche Kosten der Massenarbeitslosigkeit* (Individual and Social Costs of Mass Unemployment).

The anthology contains the revised versions of papers read during a conference on the psychological implications of unemployment held at the University of Bremen in October 1984.

Those who suffer from more than one of these problems are the worst off.

They are the most likely to lose their jobs and the least likely to find a new job even after successful treatment.

For this reason, the rehabilitation of sufferers in this group is particularly difficult.

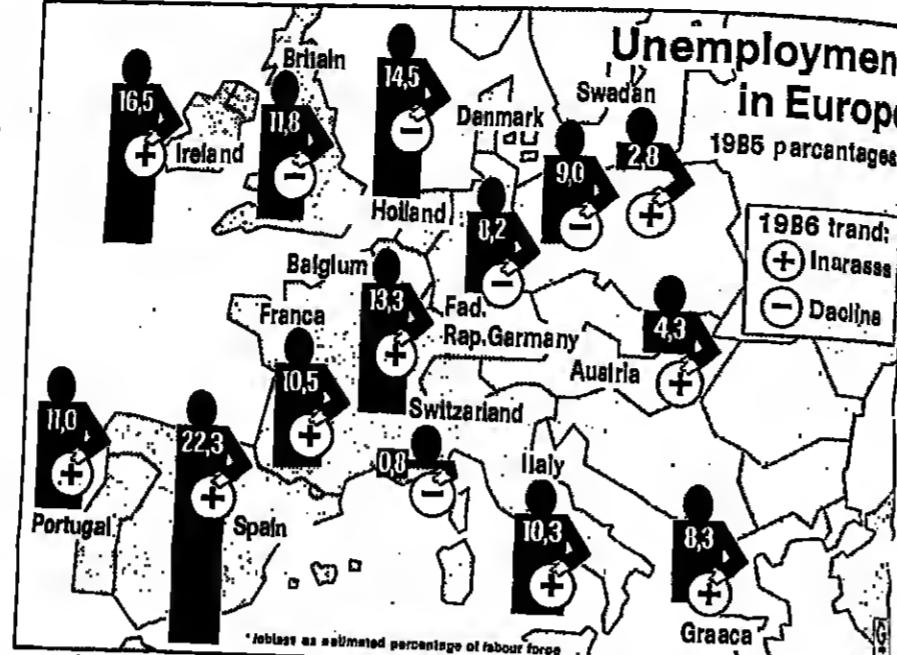
How can an alcoholic be motivated to stay dry if he doesn't stand a chance of leading a "normal" life by usual standards, one of the book's 46 authors asks.

Problems start before actual unemployment, for example in firms which have gone bankrupt.

The fear of losing their jobs results in a higher incidence of ill-health among workers during this period.

...

Continued on page 8



gates' conference planned to take place in Ulm in April.

Discussions with representatives of the political parties and the Protestant and Catholic churches also showed that there was general approval for the idea.

Franz Böhm, a CDU member of the Baden-Württemberg state parliament, was the only speaker at the meeting to disapprove.

The churches, which provide financial support for the initiatives, explicitly stressed their solidarity with the unemployed.

For various reasons, most unemployed persons show little interest in the groups formed on their behalf.

In an invitation brochure to the Bad Boll meeting the organisers stated that there were 200,000 persons and perhaps 100,000 unregistered unemployed persons in Baden-Württemberg.

Sixty thousand of them had been out of work for over a year, 20,000 for over two years.

Very few belong to any group, which reduces their political significance. Admittedly, optimists feel a few are better than none.

Erich Peter (Stuttgarter Zeitung, 21 February 1986)

## Unemployment: counting the cost

In fact, the health risk is even greater before the firm goes bust than after someone has actually been made redundant.

The most frequent consequences of unemployment are: heart attacks, psychological problems and suicide, and refuge in all kinds of addictions, above all alcohol, and the neglect of one's own health.

Those who suffer from more than one of these problems are the worst off.

They are the most likely to lose their jobs and the least likely to find a new job even after successful treatment.

For this reason, the rehabilitation of sufferers in this group is particularly difficult.

His wife advised him to undergo a suitability test in the hope that this might restore his feeling of self-esteem.

Test findings showed him to be unsuitable and unable to assume responsibility, recommending that a routine job would best suit his personality.

What is more, self-help groups aimed at helping the jobless to lead an independent life despite unemployment, can prevent lethargy and apathy from setting in.

Furthermore, the test agency said he should work at a conveyor belt.

The test revealed nothing other than

Continued on page 8

logical stability in the face of financial problems, the lack of self-esteem and the worsening prospects of finding a job.

This development culminates in deep pessimism and fatalism. The unemployed person tries to come to terms with the situation and becomes lethargic.

This lethargy is a kind of psychological adjustment to the state of permanent unemployment.

If, on the other hand, unemployment is regarded as "normal," there is no longer social pressure to fight it.

Motivating the unemployed to do something about their situation runs the risk of desperation if these efforts are unsuccessful.

So the airline is having to pay

DM2.20 per dollar for investment

spending in the year when the market rate is a mark lower, Lufthansa stands to lose about DM300m.

In Cologne the Lufthansa management are treating the issue extremely gingerly. Executive board chairman Helmut Ruhnau has been instructed by supervisory board chairman Gerd Lausen, chief executive of Schleswig-Holstein Landesbank, to say nothing in public before April.

Politicians are tight-lipped too, even though there are bound to be Christian Democrats who would sooner or later admit to a job loss.

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Continued on page 8

(Bremmer Nachrichten, 22 February 1986)

Volkswagen's supervisory board has agreed in Wolfsburg to take over a majority shareholding in the Spanish carmaker Seat. It endorsed the executive board's proposal to take over 51 per cent of Seat's paid-up capital, increased to the equivalent of DM1.3bn. Volkswagen will be taking over a further 24 per cent of Seat stock later this year and buying the remaining 25 per cent by the end of 1990.

The German-Spanish deal dates back several years to talks on the cooperation agreement that took effect at the beginning of 1983.

The two sides didn't get down to serious business until autumn 1984, which only goes to show what difficulty they had in arriving at a mutually satisfactory solution.

What that means for Spain is, first and foremost, the retention of as many jobs as possible. Yet Seat's payroll was the reason why the company plunged ever deeper into the red.

The state industrial holding company INI, Instituto Nacional de Industria,

## ■ TRANSPORT

### Volkswagen gives go-ahead for Seat takeover

which had the final say at Seat, was most reluctant to thin out the labour force.

That was one reason why Fiat, who were allied with Seat for many years, quit overnight one day in 1981, as an INI spokesman put it.

In the quest for a new partner the Spaniards eventually hit on Volkswagen. From the outset both sides realised that the seven-year co-operation agreement could only be a first step.

A closer relationship was the objective, and that presupposed capital links. INI president Luis Carlos Croisier had no illusions about Seat's survival prospects.

With an annual output of half a million cars, he said a year ago, Seat could no longer hold its own technically in Europe today.

Given conditions at some Seat works this assessment has never been disputed by Volkswagen.

The only works that satisfies VW requirements is Landaben, near Pamplona. Taken over from Leyland, Landaben is where the Polo, the VW compact, is made in Spain.

Serious misgivings must be voiced about the main works in the free port of Barcelona, it is reported in Wolfsburg.

Conditions are worse still at the Martorell engine and component works and the works in Prat de Llobregat, Catalonia.

Volkswagen have invested time, man-

But that is only a fraction of the investment. Volkswagen plan either to modernise the Barcelona works or to build a completely new production facility at Martorell.

These projects will cost an estimated DM6.9bn and DM8.1bn, of which Volkswagen would have to pay about one third.

Yet Volkswagen are confident the expense is justified. The Polo, Derby and Passat, all made in Spain, are doing well. The initial production target of 90,000 vehicles was reached a year early, in 1985.

In Spain, where Volkswagen virtually didn't exist as recently as in 1982, roughly 45,000 VWs and Audis were sold last year by Seat dealers. That amounts to a market share of over eight percent.

VW chief executive Carl H. Hahn sees the Seat commitment as a long-term strategy. He is interested less in the Spanish market than in strengthening Volkswagen's position throughout Europe.

In this sector Volkswagen, with the Polo, are totally underrepresented. Alongside Seat, who after the takeover are to continue in business as an independent division like Audi, a change for the better ought to be easier, Herr Hahn feels.

So there are no plans to let Seat's own models simply expire.

He is equally emphatic in denying plans to transfer Polo manufacture from Wolfsburg to Spain to boost Golf (Rabbit) capacity in Germany.

There are clear agreements with the Wolfsburg works council on this point, Herr Hahn says. Besides, the Polos made in Germany are required for the German market. Dominik Schmidt (Die Welt, Bonn, 21 February 1986)

Herr Ruhnau's contract as chief executive expires at the end of March next year. The supervisory board are reportedly not to plan discussing its renewal in April.

The issue is not to be raised until summer, by which time should be known about the cost and the blame for the unfortunate foreign exchange deal.

Lufthansa's financial director may find his job going too when his contract expires in July 1987. He will be 62 and the mistake was, after all, made in his department.

Why, one wonders, did Lufthansa not take cover for the eventuality of a decline in the dollar exchange rate? The airline appears to have been offered an option covering the dollar exchange rate between DM2.03 and DM2.70.

In return for an option fee it could be sure of not having to pay more than DM2.70 per dollar.

In principle it could achieve the same result in transactions with Airbus Industrie, its second major aircraft supplier.

Lufthansa and Airbus are said to have agreed to share the risk if the dollar exchange rate goes above DM2.85 or falls below DM2.15.

If experts arrive at the conclusion that Lufthansa made a serious error of judgement, then the chief executive will surely have to bear responsibility.

If the foreign exchange deal had not backfired the person responsible, for it would have saved Lufthansa a packet and might have earned praise. But many a manager has come a cropper because luck has not been on his side.

Volker Wörle (Süddeutsche Zeitung, München, 26 February 1986)

## ■ ENVIRONMENT

## Telltale ring cycle shows how tree growth was stunted in Basle and Hamburg

Unless you know something about trees you are unlikely to notice they are dying in your local woods or forests. But you can hardly fail to notice the rot among roadside trees in cities and towns.

Roadside trees are dying even faster, and the reason, as we all now know, is too much salt spread on snow- and ice-covered roads in winter.

Yet salt is only one of many factors, important, though it may be, that kill roadside trees.

A study of the vitality of roadside trees in Basle and Hamburg shows them to have suffered from stress at regular intervals since the early years of this century.

Their annual rings were the guide, using methods devised by Dr Schwellenbauer at the Swiss Forest Research Establishment in Zürich.

Rings recorded for the trees in question are compared with annual rings of other trees in the same area. Figures are available back to the Stone Age.

The city is not simply a hostile urban environment for trees. Mean urban temperatures are higher than rural temperatures, so city trees have an initial advantage.

But this advantage has been offset by the disadvantages of pollution, heavy traffic and constant construction.

In Hamburg the tale told by roadside trees has been investigated by Frau Pein:

... of the university department of wood biology.

Several hundred trees were "ironed" using a special drill to extract a core comprising a full set of rings.

Tree growth was consistently found to have been impeded on main roads at the turn of the century, which was when these roads were first metalled and the trees' water supply deteriorated.

The trees recovered in the decades that followed, only to show fresh signs of city-centre damage and growth impediment in the 1940s — clearly the result of wartime air raids and carpet bombing.

The next halt to growth occurred in the 1950s, an era of burgeoning construction and industrialisation.

But all these periods have been surpassed by the depression that has beset tree growth in Hamburg since the mid-1960s. In some years it has been so bad there has been no growth at all — and no ring.

Salt is to blame, and the 100-year-old horse chestnut trees on Theodor-Heuss-Platz, opposite Dammtor station, are a particularly striking example.

There are two rows of trees, one right next to the road, the other four metres (13ft) away from the road.

The trees right next to the road have grown to an average height of only 17 metres in a century, as against 20 metres for the trees set back from the road.

They vary in trunk diameter from 45cm for the one row to 65cm for the other.

The roadside row underwent a period of stunted growth between 1900 and 1920 that in no way affected the row four metres back.

That corresponds to the period when roads were built and paved and open ground was increasingly covered.

In this city-centre street the "salt rot" sets in from 1953. In the front row rings thin out to 0.18mm a year, whereas the back row averages up to two millimetres in 1980.

These healthier trees back on to a park where salt has never been spread. They would have been much less healthy if they had stood on pavements outside houses or garage entrances where people have tended to spread salt even more vigorously than the local authorities.

Tree ring analysis in Hamburg also shows that "heat stress," which used to be rated a problem for city trees, is not a growth-impeding factor.

Even in years that were very dry the rings are none the worse for wear.

Hamburg has acted on the findings of this survey in several respects. The unpaved area around trees has been widened. Ventilation is provided. Salty soil is replaced.

The spreading of salt in winter has been drastically reduced. It came to a head in 1978/79; a harsh winter in which nearly 40,000 tonnes were spread.

The following year's tonnage was down to 17,400. By 1983/84 salt was limited to about 4,000 tonnes. But the debate continues.

Not all varieties of trees have been equally affected: The horse chestnut, the linden, the maple and the red oak are particularly sensitive.

The European oak is largely salt-resistant. The same is true of the Robinia, a tree lately much in favour.

In Basle similar work has been carried out by Katrin Joos of the university department of botany. The Basle findings establish an even clearer link between tree vitality and harmful factors.

In Basle the year in which roads began to be paved and pavements to be asphalted on Bernoulliring, near the university, is precisely the year in which roadside horse chestnuts began to show signs of stunted growth.

Rings of trees on other Basle roads even enable the experienced botanist to say when (once every four years) trees were cropped.

Horse chestnuts on Claragraben in the city centre are found to have responded to salting by stunting growth from 2.3mm to 0.3mm per year.

In Basle salt began to be spread on main roads in the 1960s, increasing with the volume of traffic in the 1970s. Tree rings testify to all these factors.

Under the microscope city trees are often found to suffer from fungal or bacterial infection.

The explosion would seem to be that city trees are more likely to be damaged by, say, cars.

This damage gives the fungus an opportunity to set in that seldom arises in woods and forests.

Harald Stelzer  
(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung  
für Deutschland, 17 February 1986)

## Move 'em, don't fell 'em, says tree expert

**General-Anzeiger**

**D**on't fell trees, transplant them has been the slogan of DGG, group specialising in transplantation of fully-grown trees, for 10 years. You can carry out construction work and still grow trees a chance, says Hans-Peter Pein:

Herr Pein, 42, is in charge of the DGG agency in Uetersen, near Hamburg. Trees up to a century old, with trunks one to two metres in diameter and weighing up to 30 tonnes, can be transplanted.

A closer look was taken only at neurological damage, but nerve trouble accounted for one case in four.

His company has developed special machinery and techniques that claimed to guarantee a 95-per-cent success rate.

Even in midsummer and full leaf trees can be shifted from one locality to another.

They are, he says, living filters that purify the air we breathe. A fully-grown tree meets the oxygen requirements of 64 people.

The surface of its leaves traps dust and soot. Trees provide shade, regulate the temperature and absorb noise.

Eight different machines are kept in stock at the group's Nuremberg headquarters to dig a circular trench wide enough to uproot large trees.

The 12 member-firms coordinate activities to make best use of the expensive machinery. It is put to work both in Germany and abroad. At the time of writing two special vehicles were in use in Paris and Grenoble.

The largest excavator can be used to transplant trees with trunks up to 1.5 metres in diameter. The root ball is about 4.5 cubic metres in volume.

Difficulties can occur with trees that haven't been prepared for transplantation, it seems, while trees with flat roots such as birch, beech and alder don't transplant well.

Linden, maple and plane trees transplant most readily, as the tall plane trees along Gorch-Fock-Wall and Sievekingallee in Hamburg prove.

They were transplanted to their present location six or seven years ago and are flourishing. The new location must be similar to, or preferably even better than, where the tree stood beforehand. Herr Pein says:

A roadside tree transplanted into a park will as a rule respond by lush growth.

Yet transplantation, complicated and expensive, doesn't work unless suitable after-care is provided. Safe anchors, for instance, ensure that finer root are not severed.

Jute bandages tied round the trunk larger branches prevent too much desiccation when trees are subjected to tensile strain.

Last not least, transplanted trees must be trimmed to ensure survival, aim to strike a balance between tree and tree-top.

Last year Herr Pein's firm had a 95-per cent success rate with the trees transplanted. The largest was a linden tree with a trunk 80cm in diameter, now stands in a Hamburg street.

(General-Anzeiger, Bonn, 15 February 1986)

## ■ MEDICINE

## Hanover neurologist probes medical damages claims

**Süddeutsche Zeitung**

not be apparent for years, he feels this percentage is probably too low.

The standards applied in radiation therapy today did not apply eight years ago, say.

Surgery is to blame for incapacity and/or lasting damage in nearly six cases out of 10, and the dangerous operations can be clearly pinpointed.

Damage is most frequently done by a relatively harmless operation to take a sample of tissue from the lymphatic gland in the neck for purposes of diagnosis.

No fewer than 33 patients suffered nerve damage as a result of this operation. Their shoulders and arms were paralysed and they suffered from pain. Damage to this particular nerve is a serious risk in neck surgery of this kind.

The *nervus accessorius*, to give it its Latin name, is a surface nerve. There have been instances of it being paralysed as a result of insect stings.

The main reason why it is damaged in the context under investigation is, to quote surgeons Rudolf Pichlmayr and Bernd Grottelüschen, ignorance of the risks.

Of the 55 patients treated in the Hanover neurological clinic for paralysis of this nerve between 1977 and 1985, 53 had been paralysed as a result of surgery.

Nerve damage is almost as frequent in artificial hip surgery, 30 cases having come to light in the survey. Even in special clinics half the patients who underwent major hip surgery were found to suffer nerve damage, albeit mostly minor damage that gradually improved.

Stretching tissue to insert the artificial hip is a serious problem during this operation. There is always a risk of affecting major nerves, but the more careful the surgeon is, the less serious it will be.

In next order of statistical importance come thyroid operations followed by paralytic of the vocal chords and nerve failure after hand surgery and operations for sprain, fractures and slipped discs.

Major jaw surgery is also problematic. The senses were found to have been affected after jaw operations in 7 cases out of 10.

For this reason doctors have for some years been more careful about deciding to go ahead with jaw surgery.

In most operations of the kinds mentioned nerve damage cannot be entirely ruled out. But the frequency with which it occurs in some cases would seem to indicate a shortfall in knowledge, neurologists feel. Some surgeons who take samples of lymphatic tissue from a patient's neck are clearly insufficiently aware of where the nerves are.

A standard manual of ear, nose and throat medicine makes no mention of the risk of damaging the *nervus accessorius*.

Many risks could be reduced if the surgeon were first to lay the nerves bare. He could then see them. In hand surgery, for

instance, blood must be kept to a minimum, otherwise the surgeon may sever a skin of nerves without noticing it.

This mistake goes unnoticed and thus cannot be rectified. It leaves the patient seriously handicapped. In some cases a finger may even have to be amputated.

Serious shortcomings in medical training are said to be to blame for nerve damage caused by intramuscular injections, which accounts for five per cent of cases in which patients sued for damages.

Müller-Vahl says the mere fact that one damages case in 20 involves complications after intramuscular injections speaks for itself, especially as injections are fairly harmless and technically straightforward.

Nearly all serious injection damage in the lumbar region can be avoided. Re-solving paraparesis is often wrongly diagnosed when patients have trouble in walking; it is usually difficult to treat.

Intramuscular injections damage both nerves and muscle, and fatty tissue. Müller-Vahl notes cases in which tissue was destroyed in much of the lumbar region as a result of a misjudged injection.

Knotty tissue can also result, gradually increasing in size and growing painful, with the result that they are suspected of being malignant tumours.

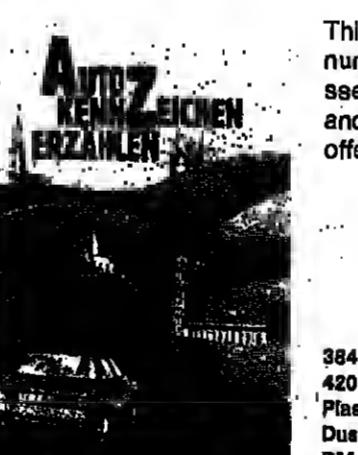
Injections that are bungled are one point; intramuscular injections of pointless drugs is another, and can lead to further complications. Anti-rheumatic and antibiotic jabs are said to be problematic.

In more than 80 per cent of cases anti-rheumatic drugs are involved. Müller-Vahl feels doctors must think twice before injecting substances that can damage body tissue.

In some cases patients would do better to take them in tablet form. Side-effects of anti-rheumatic drugs on, say, the stomach and intestines are largely systematic and not just a local phenomenon. Yet they are still administered by means of injections.

**Heidrun Graupner**  
(Süddeutsche Zeitung,  
Munich, 20 February 1986)

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(General-Anzeiger, Bonn, 15 February 1986)

A growing number of foreign nationals who live in the Federal Republic are suffering from mental upset. Advice and treatment facilities are urgently needed, says a Greek psychologist in Göttingen.

There are roughly 5,000 new cases a year of foreigners being committed to psychiatric clinics in the Federal Republic, says psychologist and human biologist Konstantinos Lazaridis.

German psychiatrists shrug their shoulders and dismiss the problem by referring to the *mamma mia syndrome* of the foreigner.

The only communication between doctor and patient is the prescription of drugs that affect the mind, such as tranquillisers and pep pills.

German doctors regularly end the briefest of consultations by telling foreign patients they can't help them and they would be best advised to find a fellow-countryman who understands them.

People from Mediterranean countries such as Turkey, Yugoslavia, Italy, Spain and Greece are subject to particular pressure and suffer from a wide range of problems.

Mental upset is caused by language and culture barriers, by the older traditional patterns of thought and the performance-oriented German way of life, deep-seated fear of the au-

thorities and fear of losing one's job due to illness.

Mental illness is even more of a taboo in Mediterranean countries than in Germany, so people have even greater misgivings about consulting an analyst.

Immigration regulations specify that foreigners can be deported instantly if they are found to be in poor mental health, so many foreign workers tend to cover up their trouble for as long as they can.

Alcohol is a popular way out, but if they are to be helped effectively, specialists from their own countries must be hired and German doctors at least roughly briefed on the problems involved, Lazaridis says.

Between 1975 and 1982 psychiatric clinics in Lower Saxony treated 1,462 foreign patients from 61 countries. Nearly 25 per cent were committed (the corresponding figure for German patients is 10 per cent).

This comes as no surprise to the Göttingen specialist. Mental trouble among foreigners erupts explosively, he says, because a head of steam has built up and no help has been available in the early stages of mental illness.

Foreigners are often committed to a psychiatric clinic after their second or third suicide bid.

(Münchner Merkur, 19 February 1986)

## ■ THE LAW

## White Circle cuts red tape to help crime victims

The White Circle was set up in 1976 to provide compensation to victims of crime.

Since going into full operation it has given assistance to 23,000 people who would otherwise have been left to their own devices.

There was, for example, a 53-year-old woman who could not work as a result of a traffic accident. A court awarded her DM75,000 in damages.

But her lawyer embezzled the money

and her efforts to retrieve the cash were of no avail.

She was given a bridging loan by the state pension fund which she now has to repay from her disability pension.

The woman, her daughter and husband have to live off her husband's monthly pension of DM1,000.

A young woman who had a job as a trainee was raped and savagely beaten with a hammer by her former boyfriend in front of her four-year-old brother.

As a result of this attack she lost the sight in one eye and over a long time in hospital she underwent one operation after another.

She lost her job. Her working mother had to give up her full-time job and take on part-time work to look after her daughter. This meant a loss in family earnings.

Further expenses were incurred for the young brother who was seriously affected psychologically by the rape experience and had to have special care in a kindergarten.

The rapist, who was sentenced to nine years imprisonment, would not have been able to pay damages for a long time.

The White Circle offered assistance to the victim in both these cases.

Voluntary workers from the organisation looked after the rape victim, arranged for a vacation and paid the family DM10,000 to tide them over.

A year had elapsed since they applied for aid under the Crime Victims Compensation Act and nothing tangible had yet happened.

In the case of the woman swindled by her lawyer the White Circle contributed DM3,000 to carry the woman over and take care of immediate needs.

There are more than four million cri-

minal offences in West Germany annually, including 100,000 acts of violence such as murder, manslaughter, rape, robbery and bodily harm.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl last spring commissioned a report from the White Circle on victims of crime.

Eduard Zimmermann, White Circle chairman, wrote in a foreword to the report:

"The public, politicians and experts have for years been very concerned about the criminal, about his motives, his punishment and his rehabilitation into society, but little attention has been paid to the victims."

In this report, entitled "Innocent but Neglected," Zimmerman expressed his satisfaction "that for the first time in German legal history a head of government has shown his interest in the fate of the victims of crime by asking for this report."

In its eight years of existence, the organisation has provided financial assistance to 3,261 cases.

Cash has been offered to help people over a difficult interim period, money for loss of earnings or property, for a holiday away from it all, for medical treatment and for legal action, and lawyers' fees.

In 2,554 cases voluntary workers helped victims to deal with government organisations. Medical care was arranged, assistance given to find new jobs or a home and for job retraining.

Members contribute to White Circle funds, donations are made by members of the public, and courts and public prosecutors' offices make fines payable to the White Circle.

Victims, as witnesses to a crime, are more often than not put into a painful situation a second time, humbled, discriminated against and shown up, because the course of justice is painful.

And there is little hope for those who try to get compensation from the offender, with the help of the courts. Only about five per cent of crime victims get minimum compensation in this way. In most cases a victim who goes to court just has to pay out additional legal costs.

Almost every sixth victim lost his or her job and suffered "serious social setbacks. The consequences were frequently a lifetime of need, poverty and social assistance," the report declared.

Victims of rape are at a particular disadvantage. Only every 42nd victim gets compensation via the Act. Generally speaking no compensation is made for psychological disturbance due to rape.

New legislation to protect victims of crime according to proposals made by the White Circle will end the present position, which is that the state's demands have priority over the victim's.

White Circle only takes up really needy cases, in accordance with its rules. The organisation is then only able to pass comment on the consequences of crime in this group of people but it can show that that criminal violence hits weaker social groups particularly hard.

Almost 90 per cent of victims helped by White Circle belonged to the lower income groups such as pensioners, unemployed, young people in training or children.

White Circle maintains that 75 per cent of the families affected by criminal violence have a total monthly income of less than DM2,000.

Ada Brandes

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 1 February 1986)

Eduard Zimmermann

(Photo: ZDR)



### Cops on skates

With Hamburg's city-centre loka, the Aleter, well and truly frozen over, divisional police officers Michael Bunge and Helmut Heyden get off to a slide

(Photo: Frankfurter Rundschau)

### Police protest low pay, low morale

Thousands of police officers took part in a demonstration in Düsseldorf on 24 February. It was the prelude to a series of similar events scheduled to take place in the next few weeks all over the country.

The aim of these demonstrations is to show the public that police morale is low. They regard themselves as undervalued, disliked and let down by the public.

There is considerable frustration among police stations and patrol cars.

Günter Schröder, chairman of the Police Federation, is angered when politicians say that they stand four-square behind the police.

He said: "As far as I can see there is no-one standing behind us, to the side of us or in front of us when it's a matter of finding solutions to our problems."

Schröder does not just mean money, although that comes into it.

The police believe they are undervalued worker rates and now qualified personnel who have to put in still work and deal with the shady side of society.

The average policeman finds himself in the front line when plastic bags full of urine and stones are being hurled at him. When rowdies are doing their best to disrupt football matches, the police have to deal with them.

Victims of rape are at a particular disadvantage. Only every 42nd victim gets compensation via the Act. Generally speaking no compensation is made for psychological disturbance due to rape.

Two figures show how limited state aid to the victims of crime is and how important White Circle's aid has been: from 1977 to 1984 White Circle provided DM16.1m for aid to crime victims; in the same period central and state governments provided DM20.4m under present legislation.

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Reporters have to be willing and tenacious. And what does a reporter have to do?

Admittedly only a school with virtually unlimited space can afford this.

Continued on page 16

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 20 February 1986)

## ■ EDUCATION

## Flexitime at Kassel Open School

Frankfurter Rundschau

Children at the Open School in Kassel like going to school. Unlike schools that make children wait in the morning cold before being let in, the Open School opens early.

Under the supervision of teachers, pupils have access to all rooms and can be helped with homework while they wait for class to begin.

So about half the students eat in the canteen for 2.75 marks. Children of unemployed parents can eat free, but their eligibility is rechecked daily.

After lunch there are two regular teaching hours. Fears that the pupils would be later unresponsive have been groundless. On the contrary, when teaching ends at 14.40, every student enrolls for at least one of the extra curricular activities on offer.

On Mondays, weekly work plans are drawn up for every child. At the end of the week, what has or has not been finished is discussed. The parents and children must sign the plans. In this way performances are controlled.

The children should have a more open relationship to school. They should grasp it is part of the life that they are learning about. And they do seem to have grasped this.

The pupils come from all social classes, and are offered the possibility of getting elementary and junior school certificates and going on to technical college or higher secondary levels.

The first Open School started in Hesse in 1983 with 125 fifth year students, as an independent school with particular innovations.

Free texts are part of this. Each pupil writes one per week, the theme, length and form are left to them.

During the last school hour on Friday, the Class Meeting takes place. Teachers and pupils discuss on equal terms the positive and negative points entered on the notice board during the week.

One can see Freinet's influence here. Children will hopefully learn to recognise and clear up their own affairs.

Certainly some points could be improved. For instance parent involvement does not function as originally hoped. Parents do not come freely, links between neighbourhood and school still leave much to be desired.

Schröder says the concept also grew out of 10 years' experience of anonymity between teachers and pupils in state comprehensive schools.

The six streams of a class year have at the most 22 pupils each. They divide themselves up into groups according to schedules worked out by themselves.

Each child has its own seal and reference group in the classroom, where the main part of the teaching takes place.

Apart from the teaching aspect, the child experiences the school as a substitute home for the duration of the lessons.

His tact and sensitivity are called upon when dealing with people suffering a shock in a motoring accident or married couples go for one another with a knife.

Reporters have to be willing and tenacious. And what does a reporter have to do?

Admittedly only a school with virtually unlimited space can afford this.

Continued on page 16

Six classes and a teachers room are laid out around a kind of entrance hall, where playing and learning can take place. It occasionally serves as a theatre stage.

Twelve teachers have sole responsibility for each class year. Everyone knows everyone else, and sight is never lost of what is going on.

The "opening" of the morning period is viewed particularly positively. The open start is followed by four morning lessons interrupted by a thirty-minute break.

Formerly the children had to endure six claustrophobic lessons in a row, and are as appreciative of the change as the teachers.

Most of the children who live in the area go home during the one-hour lunch break. However Waldau lies far out in the Kassel suburbs.

Under the supervision of teachers, pupils have access to all rooms and can be helped with homework while they wait for class to begin.

So about half the students eat in the canteen for 2.75 marks. Children of unemployed parents can eat free, but their eligibility is rechecked daily.

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The school's biggest advantage is its speed in reacting to the individual needs of the student. Pregnancy absenteeism is tolerated more and motivates the pupil to rejoin the class.

Enrolment and exams take place several times a year. The lesson themes change every few weeks to enable new students to join easily. This kind of teaching model requires flexibility and organization skills.

Teacher Heidrun Gäßert says lessons are more enjoyable. The girls are more motivated and involved than usual. Around 75 per cent pass the primary or secondary intermediate exams.

Among the police only four per cent earn this figure and the position in other Länder is the same.

Despite this, police responsibilities escalate. Although more than ten million hours of overtime are worked annually, in the past two years there have been cuts in police manpower, with 3,000 men being axed.

The chances of promotion are also nil. Senior positions are now given to qualified lawyers and the police college provides police superintendents.

One policeman said: "Those at the top of the ladder have no idea about our problems and difficulties."

Schröder said those who hold out no future for a policeman cannot expect him to be enthusiastic about the work.

Because there is no pay for some of the extra jobs a police officer undertakes, he does his duty but no more. The police feel they have been let down by the politicians.

The police complain vociferously that society's conflicts are played out on their backs. Many police feel themselves to be whipping boys when they have to go into action with demonstrators who get out of hand.

In the light of the organised crime the police have had to wait too long for guidelines for using informants.

Officials are working far too quickly on the package of "seven security laws". According to the Police Federation, the regulations are half-baked.

Despite the full authorisation of security officials no one is happy with the package.

One police officer said: "Are citizens likely to cooperate when they fear that their statements will land up with the security services?"

Hans Zimmermann

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 19 February 1986)

## Hamburg school runs special classes for pregnant girls

### General-Anzeiger

Margit Hüter does however come in for criticism. She has been accused of isolating a problem group. This contradicts the modern trend towards integration.

Her reply is that integration is in fact good. But the schools have to be organised to ensure success for problem pupils. And that is rarely the case.

With the decline in the number of pregnant girls, other problem groups have been taken in. The Hamburg school authorities seem in any case, given growing responsibilities, to favour the survival of the school.

Today a succession of young women from 20 upwards attend the school. They are women who have to catch up on their diploma, or who have messed up their schooling with drugs or brushes with the law.

Recently a new group has arrived. They are punks who have become isolated because of their shocking appearance and behaviour.

*Sibylle Peine*

(General-Anzeiger, Bonn, 15 February 1986)

Continued from page 14

man get for using all these talents? A salary of DM2,300 before tax.

Policemen are among the lowest paid public officials. The most they can earn is DM4,500 gross.

The Police Federation has calculated that 75 per cent of government officials in North Rhine-Westphalia earn DM4,500 gross.

Among the police only four per cent earn this figure and the position in other Länder is the same.

Despite this, police responsibilities escalate. Although more than ten million hours of overtime are worked annually, in the past two years there have been cuts in police manpower, with 3,000 men being axed.

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